

2005 SME Pittsburgh Section Distinguished Member Award

Jürgen F. Brune, Ph.D.
Branch Chief, National
Institute for Occupational
Safety and Health



Dr. Jürgen F. Brune is Chief of the Disaster Prevention and Response Branch at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Pittsburgh Research Laboratory. He is responsible for research in mine ventilation, methane control and explosion prevention, mine fire prevention and mine rescue and response. His area of responsibility also includes the Lake Lynn Laboratory complex with a unique experimental mine for underground mining research.

Before joining NIOSH in May of 2004, Dr. Brune worked at Consol Energy for 12 years, where he was Assistant Superintendent of the Arkwright Mine in Northern West Virginia. In 1996 he was promoted to Manager of Engineering Services, responsible for corporate-wide mine ventilation engineering, engineering support systems and management of leased-out properties. From 1999 to 2002, as Manager of Information Systems & Technology, he led the implementation of SAP, an enterprise-wide computer system supporting accounting, materials management, maintenance, HR/payroll and sales in a major IT systems project. From 2002 to 2004, he was Manager, Business Process Improvement, responsible for the continuous improvement cycle in the business processes that leads to optimal utilization of the enterprise-wide resource planning and information system.

Before coming to Consol, Dr. Brune spent 9 years with RWE-Rheinbraun, a large German electric utility, where he worked as a section and shift foreman in their lignite surface mining operations, was Chief Geotechnical Engineer and Consultant in mining projects in Indonesia, China, India and Brazil. From 1990 to 1992 he was Manager of Mine Planning in charge of long-term planning, permitting and environmental affairs for two large surface mining complexes.

Dr. Brune holds a mining engineering diploma from the Technical University of Clausthal in Germany and

received a Master of Science in Mining Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines in 1983. He holds a Doctorate in Mining Engineering from the Technical University of Clausthal and is a registered professional engineer (EUR-ING) in Europe and in Germany.

He has a wide spectrum of professional experience in the mining industry that includes underground and surface mining, reclamation, rock mechanics, slope engineering, mine ventilation and information technology.

Dr. Brune is a 25-year member of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration, Inc. (SME). He joined the SME Student Section at the Colorado School of Mines in 1980 and has since been an active member of the Society. He joined the Board of Directors of the Pittsburgh Section in 1998 and served as Secretary, Treasurer and Chairman. He is currently the Past Chairman of SME Pittsburgh Section. Since 2004, he has chaired the SME/PCMIA Joint Venture Committee that is charged with organizing the Annual Joint Meeting. In 2005, Jürgen was elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the PCMIA. He also serves on several National SME committees (Internet, Membership, SME Section Representatives Executive Committee, Coal & Energy Executive Committee).